HE 20.3621: B52

FEB 7 1986

NATIONAL LIBRARY of MEDICINE

EXTRAMURAL PROGRAMS

IE 310 2 COMPLETED

ORIGINAL

FACT SHEET SEPTEMBER 1983

PUBLICATION GRANT PROGRAM (ASSISTANCE FOR BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS)

A. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The National Library of Medicine provides limited financial assistance to prepare and publish biomedical scientific studies of use to the health professional community. The long-term objectives of the Publication Grant Program are: 1) To provide financial support for not-for-profit scientific publications, which will synthesize, increase the availability of, and facilitate utilization of biomedical information and, 2) To assist in closing communication gaps in the application of scientific research findings to medical practice, thus improving communication of information related to U.S. health needs and goals. The program is authorized by the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965 and its extensions.

B. TYPES OF PROJECTS FUNDED

The program supports not-for-profit projects to prepare and publish the following types of scientific works of interest to biomedical scientists and educators, health practitioners, medical librarians, and other health communications specialists.

- Analytical critical reviews and biomedical monographs which identify the present status of research and practice in various health fields, advances which have been made, problems requiring examination, and emerging trends for future development. Emphasis is placed on projects that will contribute to the improvement of health care delivery.

- Scholarly research monographs in the history of medicine, the history of the life sciences, and the history of the development of medical research and health services. The translation of foreign-language classics in the history of medicine may also be supported.

- Publications in the fields of medical librarianship, health information science, and biomedical communications.

- Pilot or temporary support for secondary periodical publications (those not primarily devoted to the initial publication of original findings in the biomedical sciences). The support may be for new periodicals, to improve existing periodical services, or to develop innovative approaches to periodical information packaging. NLM temporary or pilot support for periodical publications is defined as a maximum of three years.

- Secondary literature tools in the health sciences, such as biomedical guides, atlases, handbooks, abstracts, dictionaries, indices, catalogs, directories, manuals, annotated bibliographies, and other reference sources. Unannotated bibliographies, which can be provided by online services, are not appropriate for support.

- Support for the English-language translation and publication of current, foreign biomedical monographs.

- Support for the editing and publication of proceedings of scientifically significant symposia or conferences related to U.S. priority health needs.

This program is not limited to publications in print, but can consider publication through microfiche or other publication media.

C. RESTRICTIONS AND PRIORITIES

The Publication Grant Program *excludes* support for textbooks, commercially viable studies, the production of curriculum materials, the initial reporting of original research findings, proceedings of annual meetings, projects of local interest only and large-scale or long-term projects (beyond a maximum of three years). It does not support free distribution of publications resulting from grants.

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Some priority is given to the award of small grants for projects which are under way and which can be completed and published within the time of the initial award. Priority is also given to projects requiring publication assistance only, and which include specific plans for publication through university presses, professional scientific societies, scientific journals, and other non-profit publishing outlets.

D. USE OF GRANT FUNDS

Grants may be made to public or private, non-profit institutions in behalf of a principal investigator, or to individual scientists. Grant funds may be awarded, where justified, for salaries, consultant fees, equipment, supplies, travel, and publication costs, such as printing, illustrations, promotion, and distribution.

This award program is subject to Department of Health and Human Services policies and regulations for research grants, including those regarding grant-related income. Applicants should consult the booklet, *Public Health Service Grants Policy Statement*, December 1, 1982, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (Publication No. (OASH) 82-50000), available at grantee institutions.

E. PROCEDURES

It is suggested that before submitting a formal application, potential applicants contact the National Library of Medicine Extramural Programs' office identified below, briefly indicating the nature of the proposed publication project and the type and scale of financial assistance requested. Persons interested in applying for awards in this program should be aware of the need to develop a comprehensive plan for the preparation and publication of the project for which grant support is requested. Preliminary work on the project that has already been carried out by the principal investigator should be described, and, if feasible, a sample chapter submitted with the proposal.

Where an applicant requests preparation costs and a publication subvention, and an award is made for the preparation costs, the publication subvention will not be awarded until after an evaluation of the manuscript by a group of experts. Persons applying for funds for a publication subvention only should include at least one copy—preferably two—of the manuscript for evaluation with their proposals. (These will be returned to the applicant upon request following the review of the proposal.) Six copies of reprints of an applicant's publications which may relate to the project should be submitted with the proposal, wherever feasible. *Evidence must also be provided in proposals to ensure that sufficient information is available to answer the "Review Criteria and Questions Related to the Support of Biomedical Publications," listed in Section F below.* Deadlines for the receipt of new applications are March 1, July 1, and November 1. Final review will be held in late September or early October, late January or early February, and in May. Applications are submitted on Form PHS #398, available at all academic health science centers.

Panels of non-Federal consultants review applications for scientific or technical merit and make recommendations to the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. Those applications recommended for approval by the Board of Regents must compete for available funds.

F. REVIEW CRITERIA AND QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE SUPPORT OF BIOMEDICAL PUBLICATIONS

The following questions are important considerations in the scientific review of applicants requesting funds for the preparation and publication of biomedical publications.

1. What evidence has been provided to document the need for and usefulness of the proposed publication?
2. Are there other publications or works in the field which contain similar material or show a related purpose? What is the special justification for this publication?
3. Has the applicant provided information on the intended audience for the publication, indicating numbers and types of individuals and institutions, and to what activities, research or otherwise, of such individuals and institutions the proposed project will contribute?
4. What technical and scientific expertise is required to cover the subject matter of the publication? Is such expertise available?
5. Has the applicant specified the sources of information to be used for the project, and are they fully available? If the proposal is an historical study, are the primary and secondary source materials delineated in the proposal?
6. What arrangements have been made for any editing of the final manuscript which may be needed? What arrangements have been made for the scientific review and selection of the final papers to be included in the publication of conference proceedings?
7. Where support is requested for a periodical publication, what are the plans to assure self-sufficiency upon cessation of the temporary fed-

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